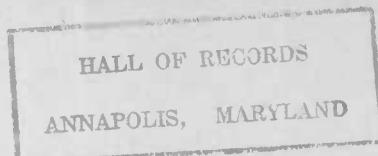


*Thirty-first Annual Report*  
Maryland State Board  
*Of*  
Motion Picture Censors



1946-1947

Offices  
848 NORTH HOWARD STREET  
Baltimore -1, Maryland



785755

*Thirty-first Annual Report*

Maryland State Board  
*Of*  
Motion Picture Censors

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BENJAMIN HANCE

Chairman

EVA M. HOLLAND

Vice-Chairman and Treasurer

HELEN C. TINGLEY

Secretary

HELEN L. ODOM

Chief Clerk



Offices

848 NORTH HOWARD STREET

Baltimore - 1, Maryland

HONORABLE WILLIAM PRESTON LANE, JR.,  
*Governor of Maryland,*  
Annapolis, Maryland

Dear Governor Lane:

The Maryland State Board of Motion Picture Censors hereby presents its Thirty-First Annual Report pursuant to the provisions of Section 9 of Chapter 390 of the Acts of 1922 of the General Assembly of Maryland, as thereafter amended.

The purpose of this report is to inform you of the operations of the department, with a detailed financial statement incident thereto, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1946, and ending June 30, 1947.

#### General Statement

The duties of the Board are to review all motion pictures to be exhibited in Maryland for commercial purposes, and to supervise the office staff employed in the examination and measurement of such films.

The Board functions at its offices at 848 North Howard Street, Baltimore, Maryland, and daily attendance is necessary to render its decisions in the expeditious manner required by legal regulations. At least once each week the Board meets to consider administrative matters and future policies. A permanent record is kept of the proceedings.

The Board reviewed during the above mentioned period, 2,110 thirty-five millimeter films, 147 sixteen millimeter films and 69 "soundies," making a total of 2,326 original films. Of these, 861 were features and 1,465 short subjects, cartoons and newsreels. In addition thereto, 15,448 duplicate prints, including 15 "soundies," were licensed. Six films were rejected, one of which was approved after being revised, and eliminations were ordered in ninety prints. There were twenty-nine foreign made films reviewed and licensed with the aid of the Foreign Language Committees, whose gratuitous services were indispensable.

#### Receipts and Disbursements

The receipts for the fiscal year were \$65,961.00, which is more than this department has ever collected, and in spite of the increase in salaries of the employees, making the operating expenses \$42,150.48, a balance of \$23,810.52 was returned to the Treasury of the State.

## Work of the Board

Under the sanctions provided in the Act referred to above, six prints were disapproved, one of which was later passed in revised form. In addition, deletions were made in ninety prints in accordance with statutory provisions as follows:

Inhuman, tending to corrupt morals or incite to crime .....	52
Indecent and immoral, tending to corrupt morals or incite to crime.....	38
Rejected in toto (indecent) .....	6
Total .....	96

Appeal from the decision of the Board is provided for in Section 19 of the Act. The procedure for appeal outlined therein is as follows: The applicant upon notice of an elimination or disapproval of a film may request a re-examination of it. This is promptly made by two members of the Board in the presence of the applicant and finally approved or disapproved. The interests of the applicant are further protected by the statutory provision for the right of appeal from the Board's decision to the Baltimore City Court of Baltimore City.

The Board maintains a staff of five inspectors whose duties are to visit the theatres of Maryland to see that the eliminations ordered by it do not appear upon the screens and to enforce the provision in the law that all films exhibited in Maryland carry the seal of approval. During the fiscal year 4,865 inspections were made in the 240 theatres of the State. Only 219 violations were reported. It is the Board's opinion that the low percentage of infractions is due to the regularly maintained inspection schedules.

The new 16mm type of business, though small, presents a real problem of law enforcement since exhibitions of such films are sporadic and are not held in established theatres. All local distributors of 16mm films have been sent a copy of the law and reported violations have been given prompt attention.

## Classification of Films

Letters were received during the year from a number of women's clubs and from The Citizens' League of Maryland for Better Motion Pictures suggesting that the Board had power under the existing statutes to classify films as to audience suitability. However, it is the Board's opinion that an amendment to the Act would be required to empower it to do so. Anticipating the possibility of some legislative action by the next General Assembly, the Board has recorded on analysis

cards, which it keeps for all feature pictures, classifications published by nationally recognized previewing committees. It has tabulated the findings of the National Legion of Decency, National Board of Review, and the Protestant Motion Picture Council. In doing so, it has observed areas of disagreement in their evaluations of the same feature films. Nevertheless, the Board recommends that parents may confidently subscribe to the services rendered by the above mentioned committees and that such lists may be safely followed in the selection of films for children.

The Board notes with a great deal of satisfaction the development of the Children's Film Library, a project of the Motion Picture Association. The Library contains films especially recommended for children by well established previewing committees of both educational and religious origin. To those groups who have sought its counsel, the Board has endorsed the project and has urged women's clubs and associations interested in children's matinees to ask their local exhibitors to show films from the Library in their communities.

### Public Relations

As part of its program of being of service to the public, the Board placed its facilities at the disposal of local and national committees engaged in enterprises concerned with public interest. It has co-operated with USO, American Red Cross, Community Chest, the National Conference of Christians and Jews, and the School of Hygiene of Johns Hopkins University, by screening trailers of special interest to these organizations. It has received delegations from the Boy's Division, Y. M. C. A., from the Young People's Society of the Methodist Church, and from numerous women's clubs. Press previews of exceptional pictures were also arranged at the request of the managers of several first-run theatres. The Board also issued courtesy certificates to the Baltimore Museum of Art for a series of motion pictures shown in the Rose Garden, and to the Maryland Academy of Sciences for a series of educational motion pictures to be shown at the Lyric Theatre.

A financial statement and a summary of the work of the office are attached as a part of this report.

Respectfully submitted,

BENJAMIN HANCE, *Chairman*

EVA M. HOLLAND, *Vice-Chairman*

HELEN C. TINGLEY, *Secretary*

August 31, 1947

# MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF MOTION PICTURE CENSORS

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1947

## Receipts

### Fees:

Original Reels—35 MM (6,669,945 ft.)	\$15,076.00	
Original Reels—16 MM (228,816 ft.)	1,136.00	
Original Reels—16 MM (55,278 ft.)	276.00	
(Reversible)		\$16,488.00
Duplicate Reels—35 MM (42,877,371 ft.)	\$48,321.00	
Duplicate Reels—16 MM (12,791 ft.)	20.00	
Duplicate Reels —16 MM		\$48,341.00
(Reversible)		
Sale of Substitute Seals (1,132).....	1,132.00	
		\$65,961.00
Deposited to Credit of State Treasurer.....		\$65,961.00

## Expenses

### Salaries:

Board Members.....	\$ 7,773.33	
Other Employees.....	28,840.89	
		\$36,614.22

### Other Expenses:

Repairs.....	\$ 11.25	
Light, Heat, Power and Water.....	295.89	
Traveling.....	865.94	
Communication.....	612.47	
Printing.....	50.00	
Contractual, Film Seals.....	2,076.70	
RCA Inspection Service.....	329.16	
Office Supplies.....	713.28	
Motion Picture Machine Supplies.....	170.87	
Office Equipment.....	271.45	
Motion Picture Equipment.....	110.15	
Insurance.....	29.10	
		\$5,536.26
		\$42,150.48

## Budget Account (Per Comptroller)

Appropriation, 1947.....	\$43,128.00	
Refunds (Communication, Item 206).....	12.35	
(Office Equipment, Item 501).....	46.16	
		\$43,186.51
Less Reversion to Reserve Fund.....	1,036.03	

General Fund Disbursement..... \$42,150.48

**MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF MOTION PICTURE CENSORS**  
**TABLE SHOWING TOTAL ANNUAL RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS**  
**TOGETHER WITH THE AMOUNTS REVERTING TO**  
**THE STATE TREASURY**

October 1, 1920 — June 30, 1947

	Receipts	Disbursements	Amount Reverting to State Treasury
10-1-20 to 9-30-21.....	\$ 26,488.33	\$ 19,025.26	\$ 7,463.07
10-1-21 to 9-30-22.....	26,866.90	19,842.12	7,024.78
10-1-22 to 9-30-23.....	27,059.51	19,892.93	7,166.58
10-1-23 to 9-30-24.....	26,338.50	20,730.44	5,608.06
10-1-24 to 9-30-25.....	29,249.50	22,207.24	7,042.26
10-1-25 to 9-30-26.....	30,207.92	22,662.82	7,545.10
10-1-26 to 9-30-27.....	32,498.55	24,883.80	7,614.75
10-1-27 to 9-30-28.....	38,165.57	27,734.69	10,430.88
10-1-28 to 9-30-29.....	44,486.27	32,937.76	11,548.51
10-1-29 to 9-30-30.....	38,954.98	31,718.26	7,236.72
10-1-30 to 9-30-31.....	35,245.85	31,816.79	3,429.06
10-1-31 to 9-30-32.....	35,637.44	32,158.81	3,478.63
10-1-32 to 9-30-33.....	35,152.34	34,207.93	944.41
10-1-33 to 9-30-34.....	36,563.00	27,174.49	9,388.51
10-1-34 to 9-30-35.....	39,463.00	27,577.76	11,885.24
10-1-35 to 9-30-36.....	44,073.00	28,927.98	15,145.02
10-1-36 to 9-30-37.....	49,293.00	28,855.10	20,437.90
10-1-37 to 9-30-38.....	48,659.00	30,197.34	18,461.66
10-1-38 to 9-30-39.....	50,180.00	30,302.92	19,877.08
10-1-39 to 9-30-40.....	53,180.00	29,598.72	23,581.28
10-1-40 to 9-30-41.....	55,877.00	30,347.18	25,529.82
10-1-41 to 9-30-42.....	55,561.00	31,135.92	24,425.08
10-1-42 to 6-30-43.....	39,828.00	22,578.29	17,249.71
7-1-43 to 6-30-44.....	55,585.00	35,112.59	20,472.41
7-1-44 to 6-30-45.....	55,054.00	35,090.08	19,963.92
7-1-45 to 6-30-46.....	59,896.00	35,802.90	23,593.10
7-1-46 to 6-30-47.....	65,961.00	42,150.48	23,810.52
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$1,135,024.66	\$774,670.60	\$360,354.06

# MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF MOTION PICTURE CENSORS

## REPORT OF FILMS EXAMINED

July 1, 1946 - June 30, 1947

1946	Films		Reels		No. of Feet		Films Approved	Films Rejected	Films Elimin- ated
	Original	Duplicate	Original	Duplicate	Original	Duplicate			
July.....	200	1,283	725	4,029	602,041	3,271,522	1,469	...	14
August.....	200	1,376	756	4,636	615,943	3,752,840	1,566	...	10
September.....	172	1,214	646	4,113	542,908	3,324,734	1,383	...	3
October.....	182	1,361	570	4,193	477,848	3,469,395	1,540	...	3
November.....	174	1,165	610	3,876	488,874	3,190,766	1,335	...	4
December.....	191	1,230	756	4,470	612,254	3,673,211	1,400	...	21
1947									
January.....	210	1,460	778	5,099	640,617	4,152,058	1,661	1	8
February.....	183	1,238	682	4,446	557,738	3,623,814	1,412	3	6
March.....	191	1,213	811	4,307	662,711	3,500,693	1,394	1*	9
April.....	236	1,422	786	4,522	636,265	3,674,624	1,654	...	4
May.....	181	1,193	639	3,879	517,624	3,459,818	1,371	...	3
June.....	206	1,293	723	4,543	599,216	3,796,687	1,493	1	5
TOTALS.....	2,326	15,448	8,482	52,113	6,954,039	42,890,162	17,678	6	90

\* Later passed in reconstructed form.



**MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF MOTION PICTURE CENSORS**  
**CLASSIFICATION OF FILMS**  
**July 1, 1946 - June 30, 1947**

1946	Dramas	Comedies	News	Cartoons	Adver- tising	Miscel- laneous
July.....	388	215	781	89	7	3
August.....	447	229	784	102	4	10
September..	366	226	687	104	2	1
October....	383	273	766	101	9	11
November..	378	157	782	8	13	1
December...	434	265	690	29	1	2
1947						
January....	492	228	861	83	4	2
February...	431	230	686	71	3	..
March.....	421	219	687	69	5	3
April.....	441	229	857	117	13	1
May.....	410	196	687	66	9	6
June.....	449	227	689	100	16	18
Totals..	5,040	2,694	8,957	939	86	58

**SUMMARY OF REPORT**

Films, Original.....	2,326			
Films, Duplicate.....	15,448			
Reels, Original.....		8,482		
Reels, Duplicate.....		52,113		
Number of Feet, Original...			6,954,039	
Number of Feet, Duplicate.			42,890,162	
Films Approved.....				17,678
Films Rejected.....				6
Films Eliminated.....				90
		17,774	60,595	49,844,201
				17,774